David Krieger, Esq.

Nevada Bar No. 9086

HAINES & KRIEGER, LLC

8985 S. Eastern Avenue, Suite 350

Henderson, Nevada 89123 Phone: (702) 880-5554

FAX: (702) 385-5518

Email: dkrieger@hainesandkrieger.com

Local Counsel

Todd M. Friedman, Esq.

California Bar No. 216752

Adrian R. Bacon, Esq.

California Bar No. 280332

LAW OFFICES OF TODD M. FRIEDMAN, P.C.

21550 Oxnard Street, Suite 780

Woodland Hills, CA 91367

Phone: (877) 206-4741 FAX: (866) 633-0228

Email: tfriedman@toddflaw.com
Email: abacon@toddflaw.com

Pro Hac Vice Application To Be Filed Within 45 Days

Attorneys for Plaintiff,

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF NEVADA

TERRY FABRICANT, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

VS.

MFS GLOBAL, INC. d/b/a FLOWRICH CAPITAL; and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive,

Defendant.

Case No.:

CLASS ACTION

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF PURSUANT TO THE TELEPHONE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT, 47 U.S.C. § 227, ET SEO.

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Introduction

1. TERRY FABRICANT ("Plaintiff") brings this Class Action Complaint for damages, injunctive relief, and any other available legal or equitable remedies, resulting from the

illegal actions of MFS GLOBAL, INC. d/b/a FLOWRICH CAPITAL ("Defendant"), in negligently contacting Plaintiff on Plaintiff's cellular telephone, in violation of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. § 227 et seq., ("TCPA"), thereby invading Plaintiff's privacy. Plaintiff alleges as follows upon personal knowledge as to himself and his own acts and experiences, and, as to all other matters, upon information and belief, including investigation conducted by their attorneys.

- 2. The TCPA was designed to prevent calls and messages like the ones described within this complaint, and to protect the privacy of citizens like Plaintiff. "Voluminous consumer complaints about abuses of telephone technology for example, computerized calls dispatched to private homes prompted Congress to pass the TCPA." *Mims v. Arrow Fin. Servs., LLC*, 132 S. Ct. 740, 744 (2012).
- 3. In enacting the TCPA, Congress intended to give consumers a choice as to how creditors and telemarketers may call them, and made specific findings that "[t]echnologies that might allow consumers to avoid receiving such calls are not universally available, are costly, are unlikely to be enforced, or place an inordinate burden on the consumer. TCPA, Pub.L. No. 102–243, § 11. Toward this end, Congress found that:

[b]anning such automated or prerecorded telephone calls to the home, except when the receiving party consents to receiving the call or when such calls are necessary in an emergency situation affecting the health and safety of the consumer, is the only effective means of protecting telephone consumers from this nuisance and privacy invasion.

Id. at § 12; see also *Martin v. Leading Edge Recovery Solutions, LLC*, 2012 WL 3292838, at* 4 (N.D.Ill. Aug. 10, 2012) (citing Congressional findings on TCPA's purpose).

- 4. Congress also specifically found that "the evidence presented to the Congress indicates that automated or prerecorded calls are a nuisance and an invasion of privacy, regardless of the type of call...." Id. at §§ 12-13. See also, *Mims*, 132 S. Ct. at 744.
- 5. As Judge Easterbrook of the Seventh Circuit recently explained in a TCPA case regarding

calls to a non-debtor similar to this one:

The Telephone Consumer Protection Act ... is well known for its provisions limiting junk-fax transmissions. A less-litigated part of the Act curtails the use of automated dialers and prerecorded messages to cell phones, whose subscribers often are billed by the minute as soon as the call is answered—and routing a call to voicemail counts as answering the call. An automated call to a landline phone can be an annoyance; an automated call to a cell phone adds expense to annoyance.

Soppet v. Enhanced Recovery Co., LLC, 679 F.3d 637, 638 (7th Cir. 2012).

6. The Ninth Circuit recently affirmed certification of a TCPA class case remarkably similar to this one in *Meyer v. Portfolio Recovery Associates, LLC*, __ F.3d__, 2012 WL 4840814 (9th Cir. Oct. 12, 2012).

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 7. This Court has federal question jurisdiction because this case arises out of violation of federal law. 47 U.S.C. §227(b); *Mims v. Arrow Fin. Servs., LLC*, 132 S. Ct. 740 (2012).
- 8. Venue is proper in the United States District Court for the District of Nevada pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1391(b) because Defendant is subject to personal jurisdiction in the County of Clark, State of Nevada.

PARTIES

- 9. Plaintiff is, and at all times mentioned herein was, a citizen and resident of the State of California. Plaintiff is, and at all times mentioned herein was, a "person" as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 153 (10).
- 10. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendant is, and at all times mentioned herein was, a corporation whose State of Incorporation and principal place of business is in the State of Nevada. Defendant, is and at all times mentioned herein was, a corporation and is a "person," as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 153 (10). Defendant is a loan provider. Plaintiff alleges that at all times relevant herein Defendant conducted business in the State of Nevada and in the County of Clark, and within this judicial district.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 11. At all times relevant, Defendant was a citizen of the State of Nevada. Defendant is, and at all times mentioned herein was, a corporation and a "person" as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 153 (10).
- 12. Plaintiff is, and at all times mentioned herein was, a "person," as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 153 (10).
- 13. At all times relevant Defendant conducted business in the State of Nevada and in the County of Clark, within this judicial district.
- 14. Beginning in March 2017, Defendant began contacting Plaintiff with an automatic telephone dialing system ("ATDS") as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 227(a)(1) using an "artificial or prerecorded voice" as prohibited by 47 U.S.C. 227(b)(1)(A) in an attempt to solicit Plaintiff to purchase Defendant's services.
- 15. On information and belief, Plaintiff did not provide Plaintiff's cellular telephone numbers to Defendant through any medium at any time.
- 16. Defendant obtained Plaintiff's contact information through unknown means.
- 17. Defendant's ATDS has the capacity to store or produce telephone numbers to be called, using a random or sequential number generator.
- 18. To date, Plaintiff has received at least one phone call from Defendant where Defendant utilizes an "artificial or prerecorded voice" in conjunction with an ATDS.
- 19. The telephone number Defendant called was assigned to a cellular telephone service for which Plaintiff incurred a charge for incoming calls and texts pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1).
- 20. These telephone communications constituted communications that were not for emergency purposes as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A)(i).
- 21. These telephone communications constituted telephone solicitations as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 227(a)(4).
- 22. Plaintiff did not provide prior express consent to receive calls or messages on Plaintiff's cellular telephones, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227 (b)(1)(A).

23. These telephone communications by Defendant, or its agent, violated 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1).

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

- 24. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of himself and on behalf of and all others similarly situated ("the Class").
- 25. Plaintiff represents, and is a member of the Class, consisting of all persons within the United States who received any unsolicited marketing and artificial or prerecorded voice messages from Defendant without prior express consent which message by Defendant or its agents was not made for emergency purposes, within the four years prior to the filing of this action.
- 26. Defendant and its employees or agents are excluded from the Class. Plaintiff does not know the number of members in the Class, but believes the Class members number in the hundreds of thousands, if not more. Thus, this matter should be certified as a Class action to assist in the expeditious litigation of this matter.
- 27. Plaintiff and members of the Class were harmed by the acts of Defendant in at least the following ways: Defendant, either directly or through its agents, illegally contacted Plaintiff and the Class members via their cellular telephones by using marketing and artificial or prerecorded voice messages, thereby causing Plaintiff and the Class members to incur certain cellular telephone charges or reduce cellular telephone time for which Plaintiff and the Class members previously paid, and invading the privacy of said Plaintiff and the Class members. Plaintiff and the Class members were damaged thereby.
- 28. This suit seeks only damages and injunctive relief for recovery of economic injury on behalf of the Class, and it expressly is not intended to request any recovery for personal injury and claims related thereto. Plaintiff reserves the right to expand the Class definition to seek recovery on behalf of additional persons as warranted as facts are learned in further investigation and discovery.

- 29. The joinder of the Class members is impractical and the disposition of their claims in the Class action will provide substantial benefits both to the parties and to the court. The Class can be identified through Defendant's records or Defendant's agents' records.
- 30. There is a well-defined community of interest in the questions of law and fact involved affecting the parties to be represented. The questions of law and fact to the Class predominate over questions which may affect individual Class members, including the following:
 - a) Whether, within the four years prior to the filing of this Complaint, Defendant or its agents sent any marketing and artificial or prerecorded voice messages to the Class (other than a message made for emergency purposes or made with the prior express consent of the called party) to a Class member using any automatic dialing and/or SMS texting system to any telephone number assigned to a cellular phone service;
 - b) Whether Plaintiff and the Class members were damaged thereby, and the extent of damages for such violation; and
 - c) Whether Defendant and its agents should be enjoined from engaging in such conduct in the future.
- 31. As a person that received at least one marketing and artificial or prerecorded voice message without Plaintiff's prior express consent, Plaintiff is asserting claims that are typical of the Class. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the Class in that Plaintiff has no interests antagonistic to any member of the Class.
- 32. Plaintiff and the members of the Class have all suffered irreparable harm as a result of the Defendant's unlawful and wrongful conduct. Absent a class action, the Class will continue to face the potential for irreparable harm. In addition, these violations of law will be allowed to proceed without remedy and Defendant will likely continue such illegal conduct. Because of the size of the individual Class member's claims, few, if any, Class members could afford to seek legal redress for the wrongs complained of herein.

- 33. Plaintiff has retained counsel experienced in handling class action claims and claims involving violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act.
- 34. A class action is a superior method for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy. Class-wide damages are essential to induce Defendant to comply with federal and Nevada law. The interest of Class members in individually controlling the prosecution of separate claims against Defendant is small because the maximum statutory damages in an individual action for violation of privacy are minimal. Management of these claims is likely to present significantly fewer difficulties than those presented in many class claims.
- 35. Defendant has acted on grounds generally applicable to the Class, thereby making appropriate final injunctive relief and corresponding declaratory relief with respect to the Class as a whole.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

NEGLIGENT VIOLATIONS OF THE TELEPHONE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT 47 U.S.C. § 227 ET Seq.

- 36. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 37. The foregoing acts and omissions of Defendant constitute numerous and multiple negligent violations of the TCPA, including but not limited to each and every one of the above-cited provisions of 47 U.S.C. § 227 et seq.
- 38. As a result of Defendant's negligent violations of 47 U.S.C. § 227 et seq, Plaintiff and The Class are entitled to an award of \$500.00 in statutory damages, for each and every violation, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B).
- 39. Plaintiff and the Class are also entitled to and seek injunctive relief prohibiting such conduct in the future.

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SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

KNOWING AND/OR WILLFUL VIOLATIONS OF THE

TELEPHONE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

47 U.S.C. § 227 ET SEQ.

- 40. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 41. The foregoing acts and omissions of Defendant constitute numerous and multiple knowing and/or willful violations of the TCPA, including but not limited to each and every one of the above-cited provisions of 47 U.S.C. § 227 et seq.
- 42. As a result of Defendant's knowing and/or willful violations of 47 U.S.C. § 227 et seq, Plaintiff and The Class are entitled to an award of \$1,500.00 in statutory damages, for each and every violation, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B) and 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(C).
- 43. Plaintiff and the Class are also entitled to and seek injunctive relief prohibiting such conduct in the future.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Wherefore, Plaintiff respectfully requests the Court grant Plaintiff and The Class members the following relief against Defendant:

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION FOR NEGLIGENT VIOLATION OF THE TCPA, 47 U.S.C. § 227 ET SEQ.

- As a result of Defendant's negligent violations of 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1), Plaintiff seeks for himself and each Class member \$500.00 in statutory damages, for each and every violation, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B).
- Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(A), injunctive relief prohibiting such conduct in the future.
- Any other relief the Court may deem just and proper.

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SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION FOR NEGLIGENT VIOLATION OF THE TCPA, 47 U.S.C. § 227 ET SEQ.

- As a result of Defendant's knowing and/or willful violations of 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1), Plaintiff seeks for himself and each Class member \$1,500.00 in statutory damages, for each and every violation, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B).
- Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(A), injunctive relief prohibiting such conduct in the future.
- Any other relief the Court may deem just and proper.

TRIAL BY JURY

44. Pursuant to the seventh amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America, Plaintiff is entitled to, and demands, a trial by jury.

Dated: June 28, 2018 Respectfully submitted,

HAINES & KRIEGER, LLC

By: <u>/s David Krieger</u>
David Krieger, Esq.
Attorney for Plaintiff

By: /s/Todd M. Friedman
Todd M. Friedman, Esq.
California Bar No. 216752
Adrian R. Bacon, Esq.
California Bar No. 280332
LAW OFFICES OF TODD M. FRIEDMAN, P.C.
21550 Oxnard Street, Suite 780

Woodland Hills, CA 91367 Phone: (877) 206-4741 FAX: (866) 633-0228

Email: tfriedman@toddflaw.com
Email: abacon@toddflaw.com

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Days

Attorney for Plaintiff